

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 7, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 and 21-22 are pending in the present application.

I. Preliminary Matter

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner approve the drawings filed March 4, 2004, by marking acceptance of the drawings in the next Office Action.

II. Rejection of claims 1-8 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima (U.S. Patent No. 6,701,011) in view of Shibahara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,538,768).

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites a **storage printer** comprising an image processing unit, a printing unit, a storage, and a reading unit. Therefore, the image processing unit, printing unit, storage, and reading unit are elements of the storage printer.

Nakajima discloses an image processing apparatus 1 that analyzes image data and processes the image data, a printer device 3 which is connected to the image processing apparatus 1 for outputting the processed image data as a print, an input device 5 at which a

variety of settings are made from the outside and is connected to the image processing apparatus 1, and a storage medium for storing operation programs of the image processing apparatus 1.

However, the image processing apparatus 1, the printer device 3 and the input device 5 are not components of a storage printer. In particular, the image processing apparatus 1, printer device 3, and input device 5 are separate independent structures.

In addition, claim 1 recites “an image processing unit that analyzes an **original image data acquired from an image data supply source** to set image processing conditions and which processes said original image data in accordance with settings of the image processing conditions so as to produce outputting image data.” The Examiner asserts that the input device 5 of Nakajima discloses the claimed image data supply source. However, input device 5 is a device from which a variety of settings are made from the outside. See col. 5, lines 60-63. Thus the device can comprise a keyboard. At no point is image data acquired from input device 5.

The Examiner asserts that col. 2, line 50-col. 3, lines 16 and col. 5, lines 64-col. 6, line 2 discloses the claimed storage. However, the respective column and lines cited by the Examiner describe the setting of image processing parameters, displaying an image on a display screen, forming an image on a recording material, and analyzing image data. There is no teaching or suggestion of a storage for storing a result of processing in said image processing unit which can be read to an image processor and/or printer.

At most, Nakajima appears to disclose a storage medium, however, the storage medium of Nakajima stores a program for performing the image processing, and does not store a result of

processing. See Nakajima claim 31. In particular, the storage medium disclosed in Nakajima is for storing programs which are supplied to a image processing system or the image processing apparatus 1 and operates the system or the apparatus in a predetermined way, but not for storing a result of the image processing as disclosed in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

The Examiner concedes that Nakajima does not disclose a reading unit and that the result of processing has access information for accessing said result of processing in said storage, and cites Shibahara, col. 12, lines 17-23 and col. 12, line 56-col. 13, line 13, to cure the deficiency.

Shibahara is directed to an image processing apparatus for adding additional information to an input image to prevent illegal reproduction of images. See col. 1, lines 8-10. Image data, having been subjected to a PDL analyzing process, is stored in an image memory 305 and is read out by a DMA control unit 308 which follows an instruction from a CPU 309. The image data which is read out from the image memory is transferred to a printer engine 105. The PDL analyzing process is continued as long as input data exists for continuously generating object information. Simultaneous to the generation of the object information, a rasterizing process is performed. Prior to the rasterizing, a preparation process for transferring data to the printer engine 105 is executed. In the preparation process, a designation of formation color (CMYK), a designation of toner density and other designations are performed for the printer engine 105.

The Examiner appears to be asserting that the designation information discloses the claimed access information and that the PDL analysis performed on the print data discloses the

claimed result of processing. However, there is no indication that the print data after analysis comprises the designation information.

Therefore, assuming *arguendo*, Shibahara could be combined with Nakajima, the combination would fail to teach all of the claimed elements. In addition, there is no teaching or suggestion that Nakajima should be modified to include the teachings of Shibahara, evidencing that the Examiner's reasoning is merely a result of impermissible hindsight. Moreover, Shibahara does not cure the deficiencies of Nakajima. Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 is improper and claim 1 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

Claim 3

The Examiner asserts that Shibahara, col. 18, line 37- col. 19, line 3, discloses a storage that is a removable storage medium as recited in claim 3. However, the respective column and lines cited by the Examiner disclose a storing medium which stores program code of software to realize the functions in the system or apparatus of Shibahara. The storing medium of Shibahara does not store a result of processing as recited in dependent claim 1, upon which claim 3 is dependent.

Consequently, claim 3 and dependent claim 4 should be deemed allowable.

III. Rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Yamamoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,652,830).

The Examiner concedes that Nakajima does not disclose “analyzing an original image data acquired from an image data supply source comprises: reading the original image data; constructing density histograms; computing image characteristic quantities; computing conditions for image processing steps to be performed in a data processing section of the image processing unit; and setting the computed conditions in the data processing section,” as recited in claim 13 and cites Yamamoto, col. 17, lines 43-48 and col. 28, lines 12-47, to cure the deficiency.

The respective column and lines cited by the Examiner disclose a histogram processing section in which digital signals released from a CCD section are added into pixel densities to form density information and the histogram data is sent to a CPU or an error-diffusion processing section.

However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Yamamoto of “computing image characteristic quantities; computing conditions for image processing steps to be performed in a data processing section of the image processing unit; and setting the computed conditions in the data processing section” as recited in claim 3. Unless the Examiner can establish otherwise, claim 13 should be deemed allowable.

Further, the Examiner should provide a motivation for combining Nakajima, Shibahara and Yamamoto, since Shibahara was cited for teaching aspects of claim 1. Regardless, assuming the prior art combination teaches the claimed elements, the prior art combination is not obvious

and there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art that they should be modified to teach the elements of claim 13.

For at least the above reasons, claim 13 should be deemed allowable.

IV. Rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 15 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima in view of Tsuchitoi (U.S. Patent No. 5,872,900).

Claim 15 should be deemed allowable by virtue of its dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

Again, the Examiner should provide a motivation for combining Nakajima, Shibahara and Tsuchitoi, since Shibahara was cited for teaching aspects of claim 1. Regardless, assuming the prior art combination teaches the claimed elements, the prior art combination is not obvious and there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art that they should be modified to teach the elements of claim 15.

V. New Claims

Applicant has added claims 21 and 22 to provide a more varied scope of protection. Claims 21 and 22 should be deemed allowable by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

VI. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 9-12, 14, 16, 17 and 19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. At the present time, Applicant has not rewritten claims 9-12, 14, 16, 17 and 19 in independent form since Applicant believes claims 9-12, 14, 16, 17 and 19 will be deemed allowable, without amendment, by virtue of their dependency to claim 1 for the reasons set forth above.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/618,162

Attorney Docket No.: Q58736

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 7, 2005